UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1996/860
18 October 1996
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

LETTER DATED 17 OCTOBER 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 16 October 1996 addressed to you by Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning the continuing violations by Turkish armed forces of the territory and airspace of the Republic of Iraq.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Permanent Representative
Ambassador

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Annex

Letter dated 16 October 1996 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General

With reference to my letter dated 15 September 1996 concerning the continuing violations by Turkish armed forces of the territory and airspace of the Republic of Iraq, I should like to inform you that the Turkish armed forces are continuing to carry out military operations inside the territory and airspace of Iraq under various pretexts, as is demonstrated by the following:

1. On 16 July 1996, Turkish artillery bombarded the region of Sinat to a depth of two kilometres inside Iraqi territory.

2. On 18 September 1996, from 1250 hours to 1314 hours, two sorties of Turkish combat aircraft were detected in Iraqi airspace over the region of Amadiyah and Aqrah.

3. On 19 September 1996, from 1225 hours to 1325 hours, four sorties of Turkish combat aircraft were detected in Iraqi airspace over the region of Amadiyah and Zakho.

4. On 20 September 1996, from 1435 hours to 1454 hours, two sorties of Turkish combat aircraft were detected in Iraqi airspace over the region of Amadiyah and Zakho.

5. On 26 September 1996, from 1226 hours to 1303 hours, two sorties of a Turkish combat aircraft were detected in northern Iraqi airspace over the region of Amadiyah.

6. On 29 September 1996, from 1055 hours to 1102 hours, four sorties of Turkish combat aircraft were detected in northern Iraqi airspace over the region of Zakho and Amadiyah.

7. On 6 October 1996, from 1025 hours to 1031 hours, four sorties of Turkish combat aircraft were detected in northern Iraqi airspace over the region of Baibo and Zakho.

8. On 7 October 1996, from 1120 hours to 1213 hours, two sorties of Turkish combat aircraft were detected in northern Iraqi airspace over the region of Amadiyah.

9. On 9 October 1996, from 1035 hours to 1038 hours, two sorties of Turkish combat aircraft were detected in northern Iraqi airspace over the region of Zakho.

10. On 10 October 1996, from 1000 hours to 1035 hours, four sorties of Turkish combat aircraft were detected in northern Iraqi airspace over the region of Zakho and Amadiyah.

In transmitting to you the details of these Turkish violations, the Government of Iraq requests the holding of an immediate and exhaustive investigation into the above-mentioned events, since the repeated bombardments of Iraqi towns and villages by Turkish forces, and their incursions into Iraqi territory, are a blatant violation of Iraq's sovereignty and of the integrity of its territory and airspace that is inconsistent with good-neighbourly relations, the Charter of the United Nations, the principles of international law and the 1929 Iraq-Turkey boundary agreement. Such practices are also liable to generate a worrying state of affairs, not only for Iraq, but also for Turkey and the region as a whole, which is primarily afflicted by the irregular situation created by the Americans and their allies in northern Iraq, not to mention the human injury to which Iraqi citizens are exposed as a result of the illegitimate activities of the Turkish armed forces and their military operations inside the territory of the Republic of Iraq.

The Government of Iraq has warned its neighbour Turkey on many previous occasions of the consequences of perpetuating the irregular situation in northern Iraq. The continued stationing of the forces of the so-called "Operation Poised Hammer" on Turkish territory on various pretexts is merely intended to conceal aggressive operations against the Republic of Iraq and interference in its internal affairs.

While reserving its right to seek compensation for the damage resulting from these Turkish violations and incursions into Iraqi territory and airspace, the Government of the Republic of Iraq renews its appeal to the Government of Turkey to reconsider its policies which enable the forces of "Operation Poised Hammer" to attack Iraq from Turkish territory, and to initiate cooperation between the two neighbouring countries, guided by the principles of good-neighbourliness and mutual respect for sovereignty.

The Republic of Iraq urges the United Nations to assume the responsibilities delegated to it under the Charter of the United Nations and to prevent any repetition of the threats and hostilities to which it is continually exposed.

(Signed) Mohammed Said AL-SAHAF
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq